

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 1 is currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1, 3-16 and 18 are pending, and claims 2 and 17 have been canceled.

The applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 13, 14 and 18.

Claims 1, 3-12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The office action states that it is not clear how a surface facing radially outward can also face the innermost surface of the same sprocket body. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

As recited in claim 1, the *spline* includes the radially outer surface facing radially outwardly. Claim 1 does not recite the radially outer surface being disposed on the sprocket body as implied in the office action. Thus, it is entirely proper to recite how the radially outer surface of the *spline* faces the innermost peripheral surface of the sprocket body.

The subject matter of claim 1 is expressly disclosed and shown in the specification. As stated at paragraph [0039] and shown in Fig. 6(B), sprocket 500 includes a plurality of radially outer surfaces 520, one associated with each radially inwardly extending *spline* 516. Also, each radially outer surface 520 faces a radially inner surface 524 of sprocket body 504. Radially inner surface 524 is the radially innermost peripheral surface of sprocket body 504 at that location. Furthermore, since sprocket body 504 is connected to spline 516 at second side wall portion 534 of sprocket body 504 and hence terminates at that intersection, there is no radially innermost peripheral surface of sprocket body 504 at that location (i.e., at the lead line for reference number 516). Instead, the radially innermost peripheral surface located at the lead line for reference number 516 is the radially innermost peripheral surface for spline 516, not for sprocket body 504. On the other hand, radially inner surface 524 *does* form the plurality of *outwardly extending splines* 518 because sprocket body 504 terminates radially at those locations.

To facilitate understanding of the structures involved, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the nature of the innermost peripheral surface. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to

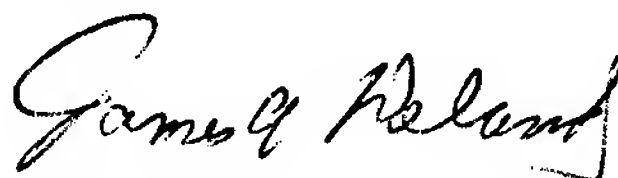
clarify that the innermost peripheral surface of the sprocket body extends in a direction of the rotational axis above the spline and also extends circumferentially to form a radially outwardly extending spline circumferentially adjacent to the spline.

Claims 1, 3-12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kamada, et al (US 2004/0142783). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kamada, et al discloses a bicycle sprocket 200 having lateral projections or splines 224. The office action separates spline 224 into sections H and J. Section H includes a radially outer surface D facing radially outwardly and a radially inner surface C facing radially inwardly. Similarly, section J includes a radially outer surface B facing radially outwardly and a radially inner surface A facing radially inwardly. The office action interprets surface B as being the radially outer surface recited in claim 1. However, surface B does not face any innermost peripheral surface of the sprocket body as required by claim 1, let alone surface C that was identified in the office action as the radially innermost peripheral surface of the sprocket body.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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